



SOCIETY OF
RESEARCH
ADMINISTRATORS
INTERNATIONAL

F204: Giving Credit: Recognizing RA as a Career Field and Profession

SRAI 2025 SO/NE Section Meeting
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
May 9, 2025

Agenda

- Learning Objectives
- Welcome and introductions
- Who are you?
- Importance of RA
- RA as a career field
- Comments and Questions

Learning Objectives:

1. Frame the field of research administration as a viable profession
2. List established pathways and accreditations that show evidence of an established profession

Welcome

- Director of Research Services
Office of Research and Faculty Development
Affiliate Faculty, Foundations of Education
Virginia Commonwealth University
- PhD, Public Policy and Administration & MBA
- CRA, SRAI Member, SRAI Distinguished Faculty
- Founding Committee Member, Virginia Special Interest Group (SIG)
- Originally from New Orleans; love cooking, music, playing guitar, and traveling



Who are you? Years in RA?

- Less than 3 years?
- 3 to 10 years?
- More than 10 years?

Importance of RD + RA: What does your Institution Say?



11th top-ranked

university in the United States for federal research, totaling \$907M annually

\$1.55 Billion

UNC conducts more than one billion dollars of sponsored research from all sources annually, making it the 9th largest US research university in research volume and annual expenditures

62%

UNC-Chapel Hill performs more than half of all UNC system research

\$506M

in combined awards for sponsored programs for research, FY24

Top50

in R&D expenditures among public institutions, FY23

54

products on market over the past decade

60+

startups founded over the past decade

Source - Office of Research Offices: University of South Florida, University of Alabama Huntsville, UNC CH, VCU

Why is this important?

EDUCATION

What happens when the federal government stops funding university research

APRIL 28, 2025 · 4:13 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



Elissa Nadworny

RA as a Career Field

How many of you can say...

- * I just ended up in this job (serendipity)
- * I knew exactly what I was getting into (plan all along)

RA as a Career Field

Professional Organizations

- [SRAI](#)
- [NCURA](#)
- [NORDP](#) (RD)
- *What are others?*

RA as a Career Field

- *50-60+ years of professional organizations*
- *30+ years of certification process*

Welcome to RACC

The Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC) formed in 1993 as an independent non-profit organization. RACC certifies that an individual, through experience and testing, has the fundamental knowledge necessary to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator.

<http://www.cra-cert.org>

If RA is a Career....

- *What do we all have at our institutions?*

If RA is a Career....

- Career Fairs/Career Days!

What are academic majors you can think of that could fit RA?

- *Accounting*
- *Business Administration*
- *What else?*

What can we do?

- *Promote RA as a viable career path*
- *Be intentional about outreach*
- *What else?*

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Thank you!

- *Questions, comments?*
- Contact jgalcaine@vcu.edu